



Silage storage facilities & leachate

Silage storage facilities refer to land or structures where silage is stored. Silage is plant material that is harvested while green for fodder and then fermented. As a result of this process, a liquid is produced called leachate. This process does not include baleage or hay. There are two rules that deal with silage storage facilities and silage leachate – Rules 40 and 41.

Use of land for silage storage facilities

For your silage storage facility to be permitted (i.e. doesn't need a resource consent) you will need to meet a number of criteria that includes preventing water getting into the facility, choosing an appropriate location in relation to waterways, and no direct grazing of cattle - unless the area where cattle access the silage meets the

criteria of Rule 35A (see more detail in the proposed plan).

If you can't meet these criteria, but you can meet the required distances from waterways then a restricted discretionary consent is needed.

If your storage facility is unable to meet any of these requirements it is a non-complying activity.

Discharge of silage leachate

For your discharge of silage leachate to be permitted you also need to meet certain criteria. See more detail in the proposed plan under Rule 41.



Definitions

Silage - Silage is any plant material harvested while green for fodder and kept succulent by partial fermentation, but does not include baleage or hay.

Silage leachate - Silage leachate is the liquid generated from the processes that occur when making silage

Silage storage facility - Land or a structure on which silage is stored, processed or directly utilised. Bales of plant material completely encapsulated in plastic are not considered a 'silage storage facility'.

Restricted discretionary - The council may decline consent applications with this activity status. If a consent is granted, conditions can only be on matters the council has stated it will control in the plan.

Non-complying - The council may only grant a non-complying consent application if it is satisfied that certain requirements are met. The council may put conditions on the consent.

Common questions and answers

Q: How many silage storage facilities am I allowed on my property?

A: There is no limit to the number of silage storage facilities per landholding, providing they each meet the permitted activity criteria set out in the rule.

Q: Can my cattle graze directly from my silage storage facility?

A: Yes, but only if the area where the cattle access the silage facility meets the requirements of the rule on feed pads/lots

Q: I am able to plumb my silage storage facility directly to my existing effluent storage system?

A: Yes. However, silage storage facilities can have a large surface area and are capable of generating leachate. Before they can be plumbed to an existing effluent system you need to ensure that there is enough storage. This would require a Dairy Effluent Storage Calculation and a variation to your existing dairy discharge consent.

The information provided is based on Rules 40 and 41 in the decisions version of the proposed *Southland Water and Land Plan*, April 2018.

*If you're thinking about making a change to your farming activity, it's important to remember what the proposed *Southland Water and Land Plan* is striving towards. Don't forget to address the objectives and policies*

alongside the relevant rules when you are making an application for resource consent. The objectives and policies are the key drivers of the rules and need to be considered carefully.